

# Robinson Awarded for Visionary Leadership

Schiller Institute vice chairwoman Amelia Boynton Robinson was honored in Washington, D.C. Oct. 17, 2003, at an event sponsored by the National Visionary Leadership Project co-founded by Camille Cosby and Renée Pous-saint. Mrs. Robinson, the 92-year-old Civil Rights trailblazer, was among a small group of leaders over the age of 70, who were recognized for their contribution to the struggle for Civil Rights in the United States.

The day began with an awards luncheon in the Library of Congress, where Mrs. Robinson and other Civil Rights activists, such as Dick Gregory and Dorothy Height (president emeritus of the National Council of Negro Women), received plaques recognizing their national visionary leadership.

## Videotape Interviews

The National Visionary Leadership project had conducted a two-hour videotaped interview of Mrs. Robinson earlier in the year. Video excerpts of the interview are on the organization's website ([www.visionaryproject.com](http://www.visionaryproject.com)). The basic idea is to capture the experience of veteran Civil Rights leaders on video, and pass on that heritage to today's youth, by making the videos available to universities and public school systems. The plaques received by award recipients are reproductions of the webpage on which their interviews appear.

After the luncheon, a summit was



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Schiller Institute vice chairwoman Amelia Boynton Robinson (center) poses with awards medallion. To her left is former Sen. Edward Brooke of Massachusetts.

held on the state of Black America, during which a few of the honorees, including former Sen. Edward Brooke, former New York City Mayor David Dinkins, Dorothy Height, former Congresswoman Cardiss Collins, and historian Dr. John Hope Franklin, fielded questions from young people in the audience.

## Awards Gala

In the evening, the event continued at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. There, a black-tie awards gala, hosted by Phylcia Rashad, the mistress of ceremonies, who played the wife of Bill Cosby in the comedian's long-

running TV show, honored such performers as Ray Charles, Dick Gregory, Jimmy Heath, Geoffrey Holder, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, and Odetta.

This was followed by a dinner-dance, at which Mrs. Robinson was among the select few to receive a specially sculpted medallion.

Perhaps the most important thing about this event was the fact that its sponsors chose to honor Mrs. Robinson for her historic contribution to the passage of the Voting Rights Act, and for her continuing work in behalf of human and Civil Rights as vice chairwoman of the Schiller Institute, in association with Lyndon and Helga LaRouche.



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## Conference

*Continued from page 63*

which took aim at the sterility of education today; and a series of pedagogical exercises by LYM members from both East and West Coasts.

An additional panel, on Classical drama, was held on the West Coast beginning 11:15 Eastern Time Saturday night, and was broadcast in Reston for

*Chandrajit Yadav, of India's Center for Social Justice, greets the conference.*

youthful folks of any age willing and able to stay up late.

Among those attending the conference were numerous elected officials, including 16 current and former state legislators, Democratic Party officials, and others. Of special note was the role of Civil Rights heroine Amelia Boynton Robinson, who introduced LaRouche with the words, "If you want to be free, come and go with the great man, who will tell you the truth, and make you free—and free, indeed: Lyndon LaRouche."